

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 3, 2007 (the “*Office Action*”). At the time of the *Office Action*, Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 24-35 were pending, of which, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 24-35. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 26, and 32 and have added new claim, Claim 36. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 24-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Flurry et al. (US Publication No. 2003/0061512) (“*Flurry*”) in view of Mishra et al. (“Security Services Markup Language”, January 8, 2001 (“*Mishra*”)). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 is directed to a method wherein a first request to grant a web service customer access to a first web service is intercepted at an agent residing between the web service customer and the first web service and between the web service customer and a second web service. One or more authentication credentials of the web service customer are collected at the agent, and it is determined at the agent whether the web service customer is authenticated and authorized. If the web service customer is authenticated and authorized, the first request is granted at the agent; the creation of a session and a session ticket is initiated at the agent; a session ticket ID for the session ticket is obtained at the agent; and the session ticket ID and a public key are encrypted into an assertion at the agent. In further accordance with the method, a second request (comprising the assertion and a signature associated with a public key) to grant the web service customer access to a second web service is intercepted at the agent. If the private key matches the public key in the assertion, the second request is granted at the agent without reauthenticating or reauthorizing the web service customer. Neither *Flurry* nor *Mishra*, alone or in combination disclose, teach, or suggest each of these limitations.

I. In Flurry, the alleged “Agent” generates the alleged “session ticket ID,” and therefore, the alleged “Agent” does not intercept the session ticket ID as required by Claim 1.

Claim 1 includes the limitations, “encrypting the session ticket ID and a public key into an assertion” and “intercepting at the agent a second request to grant the web service customer access to the second web service, the second request comprising the assertion and a signature associated with a private key.” The Examiner contends that *Flurry* discloses these limitations and supports this contention by pointing to sections of *Flurry* which recite “[b]ecause the ASP aggregator has already authenticated the client/user, the ASP aggregator would immediately generate the application authentication token that is needed by the client/user with respect to the second aggregated application.” See *Office Action*, page 4 (citing *Flurry*, page 9, paragraphs 88-90). Applicants respectfully contend that the cited portions of *Flurry* do not support the Examiner’s rejection.

Even assuming for the sake of argument that the “ASP Aggregator” of *Flurry* discloses the “Agent” of Claim 1 as the Examiner contends; see *Office Action*, page 3 (citing *Flurry*, page 7, paragraph 70) and that the “application authentication token” of *Flurry* discloses, the “session ticket ID” included in the “assertion” of Claim 1 as the Examiner contends; see *Office Action*, page 3 (citing *Flurry*, page 7, paragraphs 73-75), the Examiner’s argument must fail because *Flurry* states that “the ASP aggregator . . . generates the application authentication token;” see *Flurry* page 9, paragraph 88, while the “agent” of Claim 1 “intercept[s] . . . [a] second request comprising the assertion.” Thus, since the application authentication token of *Flurry* is generated by the ASP aggregator, it cannot be intercepted as part of the “assertion” as required by Claim 1.

Claim 7 includes the limitations, “intercepting at an agent a . . . request comprising an encrypted assertion and a private key, the encrypted assertion comprising a session ticket ID for a session ticket.” For reasons similar to those explained above with respect to Claim 1, the cited portions of *Flurry* do not disclose the limitations of Claim 7 at least because the “application authentication token” of *Flurry* is generated by the ASP aggregator and thus is

not “intercept[ed] at the agent” as required by Claim 1. According, Applicants respectfully contend that Claim 7 and each of its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

II. All Claims are in condition for allowance

Similar to Claim 1, Claims 26 and 32, each include limitations generally directed to encrypting the session ticket ID and a public key into an assertion and intercepting at the agent a second request to grant the web service customer access to the second web service, the second request comprising the assertion. For reasons similar to those explained above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully contend that Claims 26 and 32 and all of their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants further contend that none of the deficiencies of *Flurry* as discussed above are accounted for by the teaching of *Mishra*, and thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

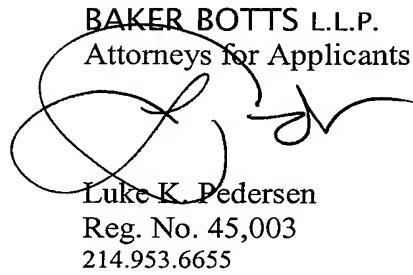
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is authorized to charge the amount of **\$50.00** for the addition of 1 dependent claim to **Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.** Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.**

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call its attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 1/3/08

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

Customer No.: **05073**